



May 7, 2007

Southwest Ohio

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We are writing to tell you about a new initiative in Hamilton County under the joint leadership of public officials and leaders from the private sector.

There are many ways that local governments within the county currently work together to deliver services efficiently. The assumption underlying this new initiative is that if we are able to develop and make available information about the services we deliver, and promote voluntary collaboration and cooperation among local governments within the county, we can increase the ways we work together in service delivery and ultimately serve our people better and at less cost.

The Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project has been initiated to provide additional support to these efforts. Ultimately, if we do it right, this new initiative should benefit participating local governments as well as all of the residents throughout Hamilton County.

We have agreed to chair a committee to steer this project and to support efforts to collaborate about service sharing. We know that for this initiative to bear fruit it is essential that it be collaborative and respectful of the roles of the local government leaders, elected and appointed, within the county.

Accordingly, our approach is a supportive and voluntary one, in the knowledge that each of us, though we have separate roles and constituencies, shares that common goal of providing good public services to our people at the least cost. We hope that every local government within Hamilton County will embrace this effort.

Management Partners, a Cincinnati-based consulting firm specializing in local government, has been hired to staff our work. They will be working with leaders throughout the county to identify areas where services can be improved and/or costs reduced through service delivery sharing, consolidations or other cooperative arrangements. With their help, we are hopeful that the Government Cooperation and Efficiency Project can be a neutral source of support for this good government work, encouraging and promoting intelligent cooperation and assuring that the interests of each participant – large and small alike – are treated with respect.

Jerry Newfarmer and Amy Paul from Management Partners are working to seek out input from as many local government officials as possible through interviews and focus groups over the next few months. We would like to encourage you to participate in this effort, and to be responsive when they contact your jurisdiction. Of course, we welcome comments and ideas you may have and have therefore enclosed contact information.

We look forward to celebrating the short- and long-term successes of this project together.

Sincerely,

Senator Richard Finan

John Taylor